6th August 1929]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am not the Minister, Sir ; I am not the author of this phrase. I am asking the meaning of the phrase which he should know better."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" This is not the time for it. The hon. Member may put his supplementary question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am asking the question by putting counter-arguments."

Local Boards

Fixing of polling stations for taluk board elections.

* 36 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to his answer to question No. 1847 answered on 25th March 1929 regarding number of polling stations in Bellary and Adoni taluk boards, whether the Government have issued instructions that each Revenue Inspector's firka should be a circle for election of members to a taluk board ?

A.—No.

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" May I know whether any orders have been issued regarding the number of villages, the area of the taluk, etc., comprising the circle, in fixing polling stations ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It is a matter within the discretion of the District Board."

Nominations to the South Arcot District Board.

* 37 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are now any Muslim members on the District Board of South Arcot, and, if so, when they were respectively appointed ;

(b) who the member was that was appointed in October 1928 in the place vacated by a Muslim member ;

(c) the number of vacancies with dates that subsequently happened in the membership of the Board ; and

(d) the names of those that were appointed to each vacancy as it arose ?

A.—(a) Yes, two elected members, whose membership has effect from the 12th June 1928.

(b) M.R.Ry. P. K. Ramachandra Padayachi Avargal, M.L.C.

(c) Two ; one on the 29th September 1928 and the other on the 23rd February 1929.

(d) M.R.Ry. A. T. Muthukomaraswami Chettiyar Avargal and M.R.Ry. A. Upendra Pai Avargal, respectively.

Nomination of the District Board President, Malabar.

* 38 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state why he resorted to nomination in the case of presidentship of the District Board of Malabar when the District Board had asked for the right of electing its own president ?

A.—In February 1926 the Local and Municipal and Public Health Advisory Committees, jointly and by a large majority, recommended that the President of the Malabar District Board should be nominated by Government, who have followed this recommendation. Since this recommendation was made, the District Board has never repeated its request that the Presidentship should be thrown open to election.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know with regard to the second part of the answer beginning with ' since this recommendation was made,' whether it refers to the recommendation of the Local and Municipal and Public Health Committees, or to the date when the recommendation was accepted by the Government and the nomination was made ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" It refers to the date when the recommendation was made by the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the District Board was consulted after the recommendation was made, or whether they still persisted in their request that the presidentship need not be thrown open to election ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Is the hon. Minister aware that there was a very strong feeling in Malabar that the District Board Presidentship should be thrown open to election ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I believe there was some feeling. On the whole, it was not very strong."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether the hon. the Chief Minister can quote any instance of any public meeting or any organs of the press which wanted the nomination of the District Board Presidentship ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Quite a number of telegrams was received from representatives of minority communities."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether he is aware of any public meeting—he might have received telegrams from a number of sycophants or dependents of particular individuals—in which a request was made that the District Board Presidentship should not be thrown open to election ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Public meeting does not connote very much."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I know whether before the date of this nomination the hon. the Chief Minister had not accepted in the Conference that was held in connexion with the revision of the Local Boards Bill that all Presidents' posts should be thrown open to election ? "

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister publish the names of parties or bodies that sent those telegrams that the place ought to be filled by nomination ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think any useful purpose will be served by the publication of those names."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know if it is not a fact that the Malabar Members of this House had an interview with the hon. the Minister and requested him to throw open the Presidentship to election ? "

6th August 1929]

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is so."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know, Sir, what were the reasons that induced the Chief Minister not to accept the suggestion to nominate the previous President ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Because the Government thought it necessary to have a Muhammadan District Board President."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know, Sir, why Malabar alone of all districts, though it is one of the most advanced districts in the Presidency, should suffer the penalty of having a nominated President ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Malabar is a district where a large part of the population belongs to the Mussalman community."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if it is the policy of the Government to reserve certain District Board Presidentships for nomination of Mussalmans ? "

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know if many Muhammadans in Malabar and one Muhammadan Member of this Council particularly did not ask the Chief Minister to throw it open to election ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" But there are other Mussalmans in Malabar who did not want it."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. Chief Minister whether he is satisfied that the particular Muhammadan gentleman had no chance of coming through election ? "

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether he has made it a policy of his administration to attach no value to public meetings, in view of the answer he gave ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The value that is necessary will be attached."

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Elections to the temple committees in North Arcot district.

*39 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to his answer to question No. 1868 answered on 25th March 1929 regarding elections to the Temple Committee, North Arcot district—

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to the temple committees to arrange for the preparation of voters' list so that elections may be held before the expiry of their term of office ;

(b) whether such instructions were issued to the North Arcot Temple Committee ;

(c) when the term of office of the present committee expires ;

(d) whether Government have enquired as to whether the preliminaries for election have been prepared by the present committee ; and

(e) if not, whether the Government will now enquire and arrange for elections ?

A.—(a) This is done by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

(b) Yes, by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

(c) The 20th August 1929.